

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claim 1 will have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. In view of the herein-contained Amendment as well as in view of the herein-contained Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-30 are allowed. The Examiner further set forth reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree of the allowance of claims 2-30, Applicant further notes that the Examiner's reasons are related to only part of the recitations of the independent claim. In particular, Applicant notes that each of the claims in the present application recites a particular combination of features and that the basis for the patentability of the claims is based on the totality of the features recited therein. Accordingly, the basis for the patentability of the claims in the present application should not be limited to those features enumerated by the Examiner.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by KOSHIBA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,836,289). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that the combination of features recited in Applicant's claim 1 is clearly patentable over KOSHIBA et al., at least for the reasons set forth in Applicant's prior response in the present application, filed on October 24, 2005.

In this regard, Applicant notes the Examiner's Response to Arguments, but nevertheless reiterates the position taken in the previous response that claim 1 is clearly

patentable over KOSHIBA et al., at least for the reasons set forth in the above-noted Response as well as because the Examiner's Response to Arguments does not address the claim language of Applicant's claim 1.

Nevertheless, and solely in order to advance the prosecution of the present application for allowance, Applicant has, by the present Response, and without any prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter, cancelled claim 1.

In this regard, Applicant notes that claim 1 is the only claim rejected in the present application and thus the cancellation of claim 1 should lead directly to an issuance of a Notice of Allowance in the present application. It is for this reason that claim 1 was cancelled, not because the KOSHIBA et al. reference in any way anticipates or renders obvious the combination of features recited in Applicant's claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, the only rejected claim in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant has placed the remainder of the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that the status of the present application is after final rejection and with respect to such status, submits that entry of the present amendment is appropriate and proper. In this regard, Applicant notes that entry of an amendment after close of prosecution (i.e., such as by the issuance of a final rejection), is not a right. However, in accordance with the guidelines under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicant respectfully submits that entry of the present amendment is appropriate is proper.

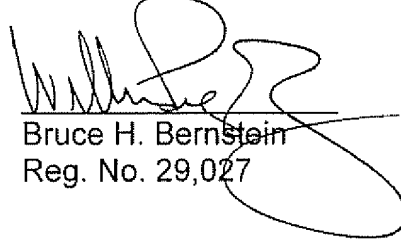
In particular, the present amendment, by merely canceling the sole rejected claim, does not raise any new issues requiring further consideration or search. Nor does the present amendment raise the question of the matter. Rather, the present amendment clearly places the present application in condition for allowance and is thus appropriate for entry. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application, is respectfully requested in due course.

Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all the claims in the present application, and thus, respectfully requests an indication to such effect in due course.

P21596.A07

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Nobuaki ABE

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to William Pieprz, is written over the printed name and registration number.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191